Application No. 10/092709
Amendment dated February 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

Docket No.: 021336.0203PTUS
(Formerly 13742.104)

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 24 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 17, 21, and 23 have been amended to correct typographical errors, and claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended to traverse the Examiner's rejections.

In an Office Action mailed 04 October 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 24 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kahn et al. (US Patent No. 6,135,646 A), noting with respect to claim 1:

> As per claim 1, Kahn teaches a registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:
> means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system (see col. 8, lines 15-19);
> means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length (see col. 8, lines 58-65 and col. 10, lines 59-60), comprising:
> means for generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,
> means for inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and
> means for assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object (see col. 11, lines 6-15).

Applicants have reviewed the cited Kahn Patent, the Examiner's clearly stated grounds of rejection, and presents the following remarks in support of patentability of claim 1, as amended above.

Applicants' signature ID system assigns a unique and substantially self-identifying signature to every asset managed by the multi-media communication network and assigns a unique and substantially self-identifying signature to the subscribers who access the multi-media communication network. The signature ID system operates as an overlay on the multi-media communication network to receive individual subscriber requests for a selected multi-media asset and deliver that asset, as desired, to the requesting subscriber. This service is facilitated by the use of the signature ID system which is used to assign each subscriber and asset a unique identification ("subscriber identifier", "asset identifier") that contains both immutable and dynamically assignable segments. The registration system

Page 10 of 13

component functions to authorize the registration of subscribers and/or assets and assign their respective unique identification. In addition, the content authority system component uses the subscriber identifier and asset identifier to determine whether a subscriber is authorized to access assets, and to initiate the delivery of that asset to the subscriber via a communication medium.

In operation, the subscriber identifier includes an immutable segment that uniquely identifies the registrar that enrolled the subscriber and includes a registrar-provided unique identification of the particular subscriber. The subscriber identifier also includes a dynamically assignable segment that can be varied as needed to define various service-related attributes, such as the subscriber terminal device, quality of service, service provider, subscription service, and the like. Similarly, the asset identifier includes an immutable segment that uniquely identifies the registrar that enrolled the asset and includes a registrar-provided unique identification of the particular asset. The asset identifier also includes a dynamically assignable segment that can be varied as needed to define various service-related attributes, such as rating, expiry date, quality of service, and the like.

This system of unique asset identification and unique subscriber identification enables the customization of service delivery to the subscriber and also enables an authoring system to assemble a program by referencing uniquely identified assets, without having to modify the assets or collect the assets into a completed program. Thus, the authoring system operates by inclusion and can simply use meta-data to identify an asset that is to be used in the final assembly of the program as delivered to a requesting subscriber. If a program comprises a plurality of assets, the assets can be retrieved as needed for delivery in real time to the subscriber rather than being pre-assembled. The use of asset identifiers thereby enables the multi-media communication network to manage the storage and delivery of assets that are complete programs and the assets that comprise elements of a program on a data storage and data transmission efficiency basis rather than on a temporal schedule basis.

The cited Kahn patent discloses a method of managing digital objects in a network wherein the objects are stored at locations accessible in the network using a storage technique which renders the digital objects secure against unauthorized access. Pointer information which associates each digital object identifier with a pointer indicating the location in memory of the stored digital object is also stored in the network. For each digital object validation information is stored, separately from the

Page 11 of 13

digital object, and is sufficient to permit a determination whether a purported instance of a digital object is identical to the current (requested) version. The validation information comprises a digital signature over the digital object.

As noted in column 6, lines 22 – 40:

Each digital object has a "handle", a concise unique identifier for a digital object used for storage and retrieval operations and other repository functions.
A digital object may have associated with it, in the repository or elsewhere, as part of the related information 1006, a "properties record" 1014 which is a set of database entries that describe properties of the digital object.
The properties record may contain entries such as the identity of a rights management system 1018 (i.e., the system that has control over transfers of and compensation for rights in that object), the handle 1012 for that object, the originator of the object 1020, the name of the object (if any) 1022, a description of any work or other information or material incorporated in the object 1024, the time and date of deposit 1026, format information 1028, and stated terms and conditions for access and usage of the object 1030.

However, the Kahn patent fails to show or suggest the use of a global interface registrar to mediate among all of the subscriber registrars and content registrars to enable the interconnection of the subscriber with the requested object, and the delivery of the requested object to the subscriber if the subscriber's access permissions are verified.

This structure is recited in Applicants' claim 1 as amended:

A registration system for assigning unique signature identifications to objects in a multi-media communication network to enable subscribers to access multi-media objects that are stored in storage systems served by said communication network, comprising:
interface means for receiving data, comprising an object, at said registration system;
object registrar means for registering said object by generating a unique signature identification for said received object comprising a digital code of predetermined length, comprising:
media asset means for generating an object payload comprising object-specific information,
registrar identification means for inserting a digital code that identifies said registration system, and

Page 12 of 13

Application No. 10/092709
Amendment dated February 23, 2006
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Docket No.: 021336.0203PTUS
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     media asset identification means for assigning a registrar-specific digital code to uniquely identify said received object;

     signature server means, responsive to a request for an object received from a subscriber, for verifying the subscriber's authorization to receive the requested object;

     global interface registrar means, responsive to said request for an object received from said signature server means, for identifying said object registrar means as the repository of said requested object; and

     network means, responsive to receipt of said request for an object received from said signature server means, for transmitting said requested object to said signature server means for delivery to said subscriber.

     Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claim 1 is allowable under 35 USC §102(b) over the cited Kahn patent. Applicants also believe that independent claims 7, 13, and 19 are also allowable under 35 USC §102(b) over the cited Kahn patent for the reasons noted with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2 – 66, 8 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 24 are allowable under 35 USC §102(b) over the cited Kahn patent, since these claims depend on allowable base claims.

     In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1848, under Order No. 021336.0203PTUS from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
PATTON BOGGS LLP

Dated: _____2/23/06_____

By: _____
James M. Graziano
Registration No.: 28,300
(303) 830-1776
(303) 894-9239 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants

Customer No. 24283

Page 13 of 13